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16 DEC 1981

[Redacted]

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Dear [Redacted]

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This is in response to your letter dated 30 November 1981 in which you indicated that your client, [Redacted] had not withdrawn her appeal of 6 October 1981. In view of this, arrangements will be made for consideration of her appeal by the Information Review Committee.

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In regard to the third paragraph of your letter, despite the apparent misunderstanding that led us to believe that [Redacted] had agreed to withdraw her appeal as a result of our 8 October telephone conversation with her, please be assured that [Redacted] appeal will be placed in the appropriate position in the appeals queue pursuant to her 6 October 1981 letter.

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Although we sympathize with your client's problem with the publication deadline of March 1982, and the necessity that she know when to expect a response from this Agency, we are unable to give you a definite date as to when a response will be forthcoming. This is due to our inability to predict the complexity of cases received prior to your client's inasmuch as the number and complexity of documents retrieved vary in each case. We have a backlog of approximately 240 appeals and, as you know, it is the policy of this Agency to handle requests on a first-received, first-out basis. This policy is also used on appeals since this is the most equitable means of treating all requesters.

As requested in our 5 November 1981 letter, it would be appreciated if you would inform us as to whether [Redacted] has any dollar limit to place on overall charges which may be incurred in the processing of her request. As we informed her earlier, due to the last sentence of paragraph 2b of her 26 May letter ("all memoranda written by the C.I.A. for the Group related to Khmer and Vietnamese action during the war years until 1975"--later clarified to encompass June 1970-

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April 1975), there is the possibility that an extensive search will be required in order to respond to that portion of her request. If she no longer wishes that we respond on that portion of her original request, please let us know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your client for your continued patience in this matter and to apologize for any inconvenience that may result from the unavoidable delay.

Sincerely,

John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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IPD/FO/gj 04 Dec 81

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